

CHESTERTON RURAL DISTRICT

in the

Administrative County of Cambridgeshire



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Including Report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector

for

1953

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GENERAL STATISTICAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Area: Land	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	111,692 acres
Number of Parishes	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	52*
Rateable Value: (1.4.54)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	£156,318
Sum represented by a penny rate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	£619
Number of inhabited houses according to the Rate Books	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11,808
Estimated mid-year Home Population	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	39,450
Census Population 1951	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	38,646

* The two parishes of Longstanton All Saints and Longstanton St. Michael were amalgamated during the year.

The district is agricultural and the main occupations are those associated with farming, fruit growing and jam making.

Birth Rate	15.8
(Corrected)	16.6

Death Rate	10.5
(Corrected)	9.0

Infant Mortality Rate	11.2
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PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman: Councillor Capt. F. Johnson.

Vice-Chairman: Councillor H. K. Stroude.

Councillors:

Adams, F.	Leach, W.
Austin, W. H.	Ledgard, Rev. T. C.
Aves, L. H.	Macfarlane-Grieve, G. M.
Barker, R.	Milton, Mrs. M. L.
Brown, Mrs. M.	Newton, Maj. Gen. T. C.
Cairns, Mrs. R. M.	Norman, C. A.
Cheason, Mrs. A. M.	Pease, M. S.
Clayden, Lt. Col. H. W.	Peel-Yates, Mrs. M.
Cole, C. W. H.	Porteous, Mrs. D.
Culley, Lt. Col. G. C. H.	Robinson, T. B.
Cundell, A.	Robinson, W. F.
Currington, H. G.	Thulborn, R. W.
Flinders, F. W.	Waddelow, H. G.
Francis, Col. J. C.	Walkling, E. J.
Fry, H. F.	Watson, J. G.
Hayhow, A.	Wilkin, S. W.
Law, W. H.	Wordingham, S. L. C.
Leach, R.	

To the Chairman and Members
of the
Chesterton Rural District Council

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This report has been prepared in accordance with Ministry of Health circular 1/54 dated 12th January 1954, and the information requested follows closely that which has been required in the two previous years.

The year under review has been marked by a steady progress in the field of environmental hygiene, and also by a slight increase in the birth rate. The figure of 15.8 births per thousand population this year is comparable with the same figure in 1950 but is still below that of 1947 and 1948 when the rate stood at 18.9 and 17.2 respectively. The other vital statistics indicate a satisfactory state of affairs and call for no particular comment.

In the section dealing with infectious disease it will be seen that the year was not without incident, though no very serious outbreaks occurred. However, attention is once again focussed upon bowel infections, exemplified this year by an outbreak of Sonne dysentery. Sporadic cases of the same illness and cases due to *Salmonella typhi-murium* also occurred. Examinations of outbreaks of dysentery and food poisoning, both illnesses being characterised by a bowel infection, frequently reveal a chain of events ending in a human source of infection. Experience in controlling such outbreaks indicates that scrupulous attention to personal hygiene, particularly the thorough washing of the hands after using the toilet, is of paramount importance in preventing the spread in the community of harmful bowel infections.

From the statistical summary dealing with the work of the sanitary inspectors it will be seen that approximately one quarter of their time has been spent upon inspections in connection with drainage and sewerage. With the completion of further sewerage schemes the proportion is likely to be increased. It will also be noted that much more attention has been given this year to action under the Housing Acts, nearly twice the number of visits and inspections as for last year having been undertaken. This is work of considerable importance and will absorb an increasing amount of the inspectors' time since new legislation will shortly be forthcoming concerning slum clearance and allied problems. Of the many services, schemes and programmes evolved by central and local government over the years for the promotion of public health the policy of providing good housing accommodation at a rent within the compass of the lower income groups has been of the greatest assistance in enabling the health of the people to be improved. It is gratifying, therefore, to record yet a further increase in the number of completed housing units this year.

The safety and cleanliness of food has continued to be carefully supervised and it is encouraging to note, for example, that for two years no milk sample has been found to contain the organisms of tuberculosis. All the samples of school milks taken this year were satisfactory. Forty-six per cent. of the herds in the district are now Attested.

In 1954 meat rationing will end and interim slaughtering arrangements will have to be made. The most important duty of meat inspection will be resumed and the Council is fortunate in that all three sanitary inspectors are qualified to perform this work. It is anticipated that new legislation dealing with food premises and amending the existing Food and Drugs legislation will be forthcoming next year. Such legislation, it is believed, will strengthen and facilitate the Council's duties in promoting clean food and safeguarding the public health.

I should like to thank the Chairman and members of the public health committee for their help and support during the year. To the chief sanitary inspector and the two district inspectors I record my appreciation for their support and help.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen

Your obedient Servant,

P. A. TYSER, M.D., B.S., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health.

June, 1954.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

(The mid-year home population is used for the statistical calculations.)

Live Births							<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	292	309	601
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	10	12	22
Totals	..	..	..	..	..	..	302	321	623
Birth rate per thousand estimated population	..	..					..	..	15.8
Birth rate corrected by comparability factor (1.05)	..	..					..	..	16.6
Birth rate per thousand population (England and Wales)	..	..					..	..	15.5

Stillbirths							<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	7	14
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	2	2
Totals	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	9	16
Rate per thousand live and still births	..	..					..	..	25.0
Rate per thousand estimated population	..	..					..	..	0.41
Rate per thousand population (England and Wales)	..	..					..	..	0.35

Deaths							<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	205	210	415
Death rate per thousand estimated population	..	..					..	..	10.5
Death rate corrected by comparability factor (0.86)	..	..					..	..	9.0
Death rate per thousand population (England and Wales)	..	..					..	..	11.4

Infant Mortality. Deaths of infants under one year of age.

							<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	2 (1)	5 (3)	7 (4)
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	—	—
Totals	..	..	..	..	..	..	2 (1)	5 (3)	7 (4)

(Deaths of infants under four weeks are of age shown in brackets.)

Infant Mortality Rate. (Infant deaths under one year per thousand live births)	..	11.2
Infant Mortality Rate. (England and Wales)	..	26.8
Neonatal Mortality Rate. (Infants under four weeks per thousand live births)	..	8.1
Legitimate Infant deaths per thousand legitimate live births	..	11.7
Illegitimate Infant deaths per thousand illegitimate live births	..	Nil
Maternal Deaths. (Deaths ascribed to pregnancy, childbirth and abortion)	..	Nil
Deaths from cancer (all ages)	..	70
Deaths from tuberculosis (all ages)	..	15
Respiratory	..	14
Non-Respiratory	..	1
Deaths from whooping cough	..	Nil
Deaths from measles	..	Nil
Deaths from pneumonia	..	17
Deaths from influenza	..	4
Deaths from diarrhoea (under 2 years)	..	Nil

CERTAIN COMPARATIVE RATES

	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
*Birth Rate	17.2	15.2	15.8	15.3	15.2	15.8
*Death Rate	9.8	12.3	10.9	12.3	10.0	10.5
Infant Mortality Rate	18.0	25.1	19.9	20.1	20.1	11.2
	(11)	(14)	(12)	(12)	(12)	(7)

* The above rates are uncorrected so that they are comparable from year to year. The figures in brackets are the numbers of infant deaths in each year.

TABLE CLASSIFYING DEATHS UNDER AGE GROUPS

<i>Ages</i>							<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Under 1 year	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	5	7
1 and under 2	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	2	2
2 and under 5	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	—	—
5 and under 15	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	—	—
15 and under 25	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	2	8
25 and under 35	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	6	9
35 and under 45	..	..	..	..	..	..	12	4	16
45 and under 55	..	..	..	..	..	..	17	8	25
55 and under 65	..	..	..	..	..	..	29	25	54
65 and under 75	..	..	..	..	..	..	51	54	105
75 and over	..	..	..	..	..	..	85	104	189
Totals	..	..	..	..	..	..	205	210	415

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Medical Officer of Health

“The Cambridgeshire United Districts (Medical Officer of Health) Order, 1951” provides for the appointment of a medical officer of health to the Chesterton, Newmarket and South Cambridgeshire Rural District Councils.

Under the present arrangements this officer is also appointed deputy county and school medical officer to the Cambridgeshire County Council.

Sanitary Inspectors

There has been no alteration in the staff since last year. The establishment of three whole time inspectors has remained unaltered for 18 years.

E. B. NEWMAN, A.M.I.S.E., F.S.I.A., A.R.San.I.

N. D. ADDISON, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., A.M.I.S.E.

E. V. BEEBY, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Laboratory Facilities

Chemical and bacteriological examinations of water are made by the Public Analyst at Cambridge. The Public Health Laboratory, Cambridge, undertakes bacteriological and biological examinations of milk and bacteriological examinations of water samples, and all necessary examinations in cases of infectious diseases.

Hospitals

Cases of infectious disease are treated at the Isolation Hospital, Cambridge. So far as general hospitals are concerned, Addenbrookes Hospital, Cambridge, deals with the majority of cases from this area. The only hospitals in the area are the Mental Hospital at Fulbourn and that for the treatment of tuberculosis in connection with the Papworth Village Settlement.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES 1953

The district experienced an outbreak of *measles* in the early part of the year. During the year eleven cases of *poliomyelitis* occurred. *Sonne dysentery* gave rise to sporadic cases but also was responsible for an outbreak at Papworth Village Settlement. No cases of *diphtheria* occurred in the district.

Poliomyelitis

11 cases were notified, four of which were non-paralytic. Nine of the cases occurred between the middle of July and the end of August. One patient was a school teacher who was in contact with children when he was infectious yet no further cases arose from this source. Five cases occurred amongst children in one parish situated on the outskirts of the City of Cambridge. Careful investigation was unable to establish any significant chain of contact. Of the seven paralytic cases, one married woman died.

Measles

In 1951, 723 cases were notified. This year the figure was 478. Measles epidemics tend to occur every two years and although a large number were notified this year the figure is only the third highest recorded during the last ten years.

Whooping Cough

For the last three years the number of notified cases has been 171, 131, 115. This incidence probably only reflects part of the infection in the community since the illness is not always easy to diagnose and is not always marked by the characteristic cough. The illness is not without danger, particularly in children under one. Once again the hope is expressed that an immunisation campaign on national lines will soon be launched by the government, similar to the very successful attack which has been made on diphtheria.

Dysentery

An outbreak of *Sonne dysentery* began at Papworth Village Settlement on April 14/15th. 12 cases were notified, but 40 other persons were found to be symptomless excretors of the organism. The Chief Medical Officer, Papworth Village Settlement, notified me on April 16th of the occurrence of the outbreak and it was thus possible to introduce preventive measures at an early date. An *ad hoc* committee was formed within the terms of Ministry of Health Circular R.H.B. (53) 40, dated April 17th 1953, and this greatly facilitated the management of the outbreak, which is believed to have been due to contaminated cress. The investigations were extensive and complicated; the whole subject was written up by the Committee and published in The Monthly Bulletin of the Ministry of Health and Public Health Laboratory Service, dated November 1953.

I would like here to acknowledge and pay tribute to the excellent help given me by the staff and patients of Papworth and the staff of the Public Health Laboratory Service.

Sonne dysentery also occurred sporadically in various parts of the district. It was not possible to trace the sources of infection. It is known that very often for every case with symptoms there may be contacts who are symptomless but nevertheless infected. Such 'carriers' form a potential reservoir of infection in the community and every endeavour is made with the assistance of family doctors to trace contacts of known cases and to persuade them to submit faecal specimens for examination. However, the most important single preventive measure is for everyone to pay scrupulous attention to washing their hands thoroughly after visiting the toilet.

Six cases of *Flexner dysentery* occurred during the year at Fulbourn Mental Hospital. As mentioned last year, this organism has been responsible for occasional cases of dysentery there for a number of years. Prompt action on the part of the staff enabled spread to be prevented, though the overcrowded conditions add considerably to the difficulties of control.

Scarlet Fever

75 cases were notified, generally of a very mild type. This increase was not exceptional in this district, scarlet fever was more prevalent in the country as a whole. Scarlet fever is but one manifestation of the many illnesses due to streptococcal infection. An increase in the number of cases of scarlet fever indicates a fairly wide prevalence of streptococcal infection in the community and the notification of this particular type of streptococcal infection does serve to indicate what is happening. On the other hand it is to be appreciated that since scarlet fever is a notifiable disease measures of control of spread of infection can be instituted, whereas persons suffering from other manifestations of streptococcal infection are not notified and not subject to control measures and can, therefore, give rise to further infections. Although the position is somewhat anomalous, from a practical point of view wider terms of notification would be extremely difficult to administer.

Infective Hepatitis (Infective Jaundice)

This infectious disease is notifiable in East Anglia and during the year 11 cases were notified. 7 of these cases occurred in one parish and it was possible to establish a chain of contact between them; a further case, living in another parish, who was a contact developed the illness.

Food Poisoning

7 cases of food poisoning were notified during the year. Four cases were sporadic and in three of them the causative agent was not discovered; in the other, *Salmonella typhi-murium* was isolated, but how the patient received this infection was not determined. The remaining three cases were also due to *Salmonella typhi-murium* infection and occurred in a hospital in the last week of the year. In connection with this incident two symptomless excretors were discovered in the course of investigations. The origin of the infection was not determined but no further extension of the outbreak took place.

Influenza

In 1950/51 influenza was prevalent in the country and a considerable number of cases occurred. The amount of illness was reflected in the weekly applications for sickness benefit from the Ministry of National Insurance. In January 1953 influenza again visited this country but the infection was much less serious than the 50/51 infection. The illness was of a fairly short duration and the applications for sickness benefit from the Ministry of National Insurance were only slightly higher than those for the corresponding period in 1951/52. The peak of the epidemic occurred about the middle of January 1953 and generally had greater effect in the South of England as opposed to the North, the latter having been particularly affected in 1950/51. Fortunately the district was hardly affected.

Undulant Fever

This illness is due to infection by *Brucella abortus*. Apart from farm workers and veterinarians who may be at special risk, the most common way in which the public is infected is *via* contaminated milk. The disease is not notifiable but from time to time I am informed of the occurrence of a case and steps are immediately taken to ascertain the source of infection. One case was brought to my notice during the year and an infected milk supply found from which almost certainly the patient had acquired his infection. Appropriate steps were taken to safeguard the public.

In addition to the formal notifications received from medical practitioners under Section 144 of the Public Health Act, 1936, there has been a system in force for some years whereby I receive informal notifications from head teachers of cases of infectious disease occurring amongst schoolchildren. I therefore obtain some information with regard to the prevalence of non-notifiable diseases such as mumps, german measles, and chicken pox for example.

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE IN AGE GROUPS 1953

Age in Years	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Acute Poliomyelitis		Measles	Diphtheria	Totals
			Paralytic	Non-Paralytic			
Under 1	1	7	—	—	9	—	17
1—2	4	24	1	—	83	—	112
3—4	4	29	1	2	96	—	132
5—9	46	53	1	1	237	—	338
10—14	12	2	1	—	29	—	44
15—24	5	—	—	1	9	—	15
25 and over	3	—	3	—	13	—	19
Age Unknown	—	—	—	—	2	—	2
Totals	75	115	7	4	478	—	679
1952 Totals	34	131	3	1	59	5	233

Age in Years	Acute Pneumonia	Dysentery	Erysipelas	Food Poisoning	Puerperal Pyrexia	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Totals
Under 5	4	6	—	1	—	—	11
5—14	9	3	1	1	—	—	14
15—44	5	22	—	4	5	—	36
45—64	3	2	—	1	—	—	6
65 and over	2	2	2	—	—	—	6
Age Unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	23	35	3	7	5	—	73
1952 Totals	17	21	3	10	3	—	54

MEASLES AND WHOOPING COUGH Annual case incidence and deaths 1943—1953

DISEASE	YEARS											1953
	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	TOTAL	
<i>Measles</i>												
Cases	108	114	246	177	338	225	493	76	723	59	2,559	478
Deaths	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
<i>Whooping cough</i>												
Cases	38	55	54	19	90	80	84	81	171	131	803	115
Deaths	—	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	3	—

TUBERCULOSIS

38 cases (21 male and 17 female) were notified for the first time during the year. 39 cases previously notified in other areas transferred to this district. 5 respiratory cases were discovered from scrutiny of the death returns; investigation revealed that 2 had previously been notified. On balance, at the end of the year, the number of persons on the respiratory register had increased by 38, but there were 3 less on the non-respiratory register.

TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER 1953

	<i>Respiratory</i>		<i>Non Respiratory</i>		<i>Total</i>	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
1. Number of cases on register at commencement of year	167	125	30	42	197	167
2. Number of cases notified for first time during the year under regulations	20	15	1	2	21	17
3. Cases restored to register	—	—	—	—	—	—
4. Cases added to register otherwise than by notification under regulations						
(a) Transferred from other Districts	23	15	1	—	24	15
(b) From Death Returns	3	2	—	—	3	2
5. Number of cases removed from register	22	18	4	3	26	21
6. Number of cases remaining on register at end of year	191	139	28	41	219	180

AGE AND SEX DISTRIBUTION RESPIRATORY AND NON-RESPIRATORY TUBERCULOSIS CASES ON REGISTER 31.12.53

AGE GROUP	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL		GRAND TOTAL
	<i>Resp.</i>	<i>Non Resp.</i>	<i>Resp.</i>	<i>Non Resp.</i>	<i>Resp.</i>	<i>Non Resp.</i>	
0—15	12	7	7	6	19	13	32
15—25	16	3	23	15	39	18	57
25—35	47	2	44	6	91	8	99
35—45	38	4	30	7	68	11	79
45—55	36	8	21	4	57	12	69
55—65	28	2	7	3	35	5	40
65 and over	14	2	7	—	21	2	23
TOTALS	191	28	139	41	330	69	399

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948, Section 47

No action was necessary during the year under this section. The meeting of those concerned with the welfare of old people referred to in my last report had not taken place by the end of the year. However, the meeting has now been arranged to take place in March 1954 and will be convened by the County Council firstly with the purpose of obtaining agreement from the various voluntary organisations and others concerned with old people's welfare to use the County Council's Welfare Department as a 'clearing house' for information about old people. It is hoped that this will achieve better integration of available services. Secondly to confer with the housing authorities in the County upon the subject of old people's housing requirements.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948, Section 50

During the year it was necessary to effect the burial of three persons where no other arrangements were being made.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

The following is a summary of inspections carried out during 1953:—

TOTAL INSPECTIONS RECORDED 6,207

General Sanitation

Miscellaneous visits re complaints, etc.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	421
Visits re drainage or sewerage	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,349
Water supplies	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	644
Water samples taken	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	415
Factories Acts	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	227
Visits re verminous persons or property	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	31
Public cleansing visits	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	446
Shops Acts, etc.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	154
Schools	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	162
Rag Flock Acts	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Pet shops	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7

Inspection of Food and Food Premises

Visits re sampling (Milk and other foods)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	410
Visits to slaughterhouses	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	36
Butchers shops	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	100
Preserved Food Premises:—									
(1) Sausage Manufacturers	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	76
(2) Fried Fish Shops	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	28
Ice Cream Premises (Retailers)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	154
Cafes and Restaurants	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	129
Other Food Premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	210
Bakehouses	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	56
Retail Dairies	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	52
Licensed Premises (Public Houses, etc.)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	171

Housing

Housing inspections (P.H.A. 1936)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
Reinspections	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	52
Housing inspections (Housing Acts)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	512
Reinspections	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	184
Moveable Dwellings	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	267

Infectious Diseases

Visits and Enquiries	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	253
Disinfections	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	56

HOUSING

1. Total number of houses erected by the Council between 1920 and 1939 1,320

2. Post War Housing Progress

		<i>Permanent</i>	<i>Non-Traditional</i>	<i>Prefabs</i>	<i>Total</i>
Houses completed in	1946	18	—	5	23
"	"	52	16	45	113
"	"	77	10	—	87
"	"	21	70	—	91
"	"	115	—	—	115
"	"	133	—	—	133
"	"	106	—	—	106
"	"	184	—	—	184
		706	96	50	852

These figures are exclusive of conversions into flats and conversions of hutted dwellings.

Total number of dwellings completed up to 31st March, 1954.

Prefabricated bungalows	50
Bungalows	90
Flats	9
Swedish and Airey Houses	96
Hut conversions	225
Permanent houses	646
	1,116

In course of erection or contracts drawn up:—

Permanent houses	163
Non-traditional houses	78
Bungalows	52
Flats	20
	313

3. Number of houses built during the year by private enterprise.

Permanent 132, Temporary Nil, Prefabs Nil, Conversions (units) 3.

4. Summary of action taken under the Housing Acts during the year:—

Houses inspected	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	520
Reinspections made	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	236
Demolition Orders made	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9
Houses demolished	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13
Undertakings (Section 11 (3)) accepted	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11
Undertakings (Section 11 (3)) cancelled	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Houses made fit	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	108

Since the passing of Housing Act, 1930, the following action has been taken:—

Demolition orders not yet complied with	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	17
Houses demolished	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	429
Houses demolished (voluntarily)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	22
Houses in respect of which undertakings under Section 11 (3) of the Housing Act, 1936, have been accepted	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	80
Houses (or parts) closed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
Houses made fit by formal action	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	30
Houses made fit by informal action	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	817

NOTE:—These figures are totals up to 31st December, 1953.

Improvement Grants (Housing Act, 1949)

Since the introduction of the Act the following action has been taken:—

Total applications for grants received..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	19
Total applications approved ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	18
Number of dwellings involved ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	19
Total cost of approved work ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	£9,316
Total amount of grant involved ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	£4,633
Total applications disapproved ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1

Although the Council has erected over 2,000 houses and converted 225 hutments for occupation there is still a formidable list of applicants awaiting accommodation, which shows an increase on the figures at 31.3.53. The revised list may be summarised as follows:—

Families in lodgings (no separate houses)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	481
Families in separate houses but under Notice, Court Order, or being in unfit accommodation ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	868
Total (31.3.54)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,349†

† This total includes 218 agricultural workers.

Requisitioning

At the 31st March, 1954, 25 properties were retained by the Council on Requisitioning Orders, providing accommodation for 27 family units. Active steps are being taken to release these as quickly as possible.

Temporary Hutments

At the 31st March, 1954, the number of hutments remaining in occupation was 186 as follows:—

Fen Ditton and Teversham (Greenhouse Farm)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9
Fulbourn ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Great Shelford and Stapleford (Granta Terrace)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Graveley ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	15
Longstanton ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12
Cottenham ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11
Bourn Site 4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	15
„ „ 5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
„ „ 7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
„ „ 8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	39
„ „ 10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	20
Stow-cum-Quy (10 year conversions)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	52
								186

As a result of surveys carried out by the department, the Council has adopted a policy of closing huts as they become vacant. One site has been entirely eliminated (Waterbeach—11 huts) and the number of occupied huts on the Bourn site has been systematically reduced from 110 (converted) to 80. It is hoped that this number will be reduced still further when the new housing site in the village is completed. In all, 79 huts have already been demolished.

Moveable Dwellings and Camping Sites

With a considerable 'floating' population in and around Cambridge, great use was made of caravans for temporary residential purposes during the immediate post war period. At that time the demand for sites exceeded the supply and the position became difficult. Now, however, with the easing of the housing position the demand for sites is decreasing.

During the year the two large sites at Great Shelford were connected to the new sewers, and to date make provision for 58 caravans. These, together with a number of small sites to the North of Cambridge, appear to meet the present requirements. It is significant, however, that at December, 1953, licences in respect of a total of 261 vehicles were in force.

No trouble was experienced during the year regarding the seasonal influx of caravan dwellers for the fruit picking season. This practice is gradually dying out.

The following figures indicate the position at 31st December, 1953:—

Number of licences issued during the year for individual caravans	29
Number refused	Nil
Number of new site licences issued	2
Vehicles involved	17
Number of site licences refused	1
Total number of individual licences in force at 31st December, 1953.	119
Total number of site licences in force at 31st December, 1953.	16
Total vehicles involved	142
Total number of visits paid	267
Site improvements carried out	5
New or improved sanitary accommodation	3
Mains water or electricity laid on	3

**POST WAR HOUSING
PARISH ALLOCATION**
(Houses under contract or work commenced 31.3.54)

Parish	Permanent Construction				Temp. Accom.	
	Allocated		Completed		Allocated	Completed
	Houses	Bungalows and Flats	Houses	Bungalows and Flats	Huts and Prefabs etc.	Huts and Prefabs etc.
Barton	6	—	6	—	—	—
Bourn	40	12	—	—	110	110
Boxworth	4	—	4	—	—	—
Caxton	19	10	16	6	—	—
Comberton	4	—	4	—	—	—
Conington	8	—	8	—	—	—
Coton	50	3	50	3	—	—
Cottenham	76	8	44	4	22	22
Croxton	8	—	8	—	—	—
Dry Drayton	8	—	8	—	—	—
Elsworth	12	—	12	—	—	—
Eltisley	9	—	9	—	—	—
Fen Ditton	8	—	8	—	—	—
Fen Drayton	16	—	16	—	—	—
Fulbourn	16	—	16	—	10	10
Girton	59	10	59	10	—	—
Grantchester	6	—	6	—	—	—
Graveley	8	—	8	—	14	14
Harlton	7	—	7	—	—	—
Harston	58	10	58	10	—	—
Haslingfield	6	4	6	4	—	—
Histon	48	4	22	—	—	—
Horningsea	16	4	16	4	—	—
Impington	36	2	36	2	10	10
Knapwell	6	—	6	—	—	—
Landbeach	14	2	14	2	—	—
Lolworth	8	—	8	—	—	—
Longstanton	26	9	26	9	26	26
Madingley	8	—	8	—	—	—
Milton	28	—	28	—	—	—
Newton	4	—	4	—	—	—
Oakington	24	13	16	11	10	10
Over	10	5	10	5	—	—
Rampton	11	—	11	—	—	—
Great Shelford	144	42	12	—	10	10
Little Shelford	18	—	18	—	—	—
Stapleford	10	—	10	—	—	—
Stow-cum-Quy	—	—	—	—	52	52
Swavesey	26	6	26	6	—	—
Teversham	12	—	12	—	—	—
Toft	12	—	12	—	—	—
Waterbeach	45	12	45	8	11	11
Great Wilbraham	8	—	8	—	—	—
Willingham	41	15	41	15	—	—
Totals	983	171	742	99	275	275

WATER SUPPLY

During the year small mains extensions have been completed at Newton and Harston and work has been commenced on the scheme for supplying certain fen areas (North Fen and Smithy Fen, Cottenham). With all parishes supplied, the Council's task of main laying is virtually complete apart from routine replacement of the older mains as required. A direct labour scheme is in operation for the maintenance of, and connection to, water mains and for waste detection.

The department has continued to survey properties along the routes of the mains with a view to encouraging connections, and the results achieved, as shown in the Table overleaf, are considered satisfactory. The percentage of dwellings taking a supply shows an increase from 86.5% in 1952 to 87.4% in 1953. (78% in 1950 and 82.5% in 1951.)

Public standpipe supplies have been still further eliminated and those remaining are retained for the use of isolated premises where connections are precluded by virtue of the long services involved. External taps serving not more than two properties are permitted where, owing to the low rateable values, it is impracticable to enforce Section 30 of the Water Act, 1945.

Sufficiency of Supply

No real difficulty was met with during the year in meeting the demands on the various sources of supply. The Chesterton and St. Ives Joint Water Board has completed its scheme for supplementing its resources by means of a bulk supply from the Cambridge University and Town Waterworks Company and the additional supply from an R.A.F. bore at Lordsbridge Harlton is likely to be available during 1954. It will of course be necessary to conserve as far as possible the supplies drawn from the Greensand having regard to the continued drop in the levels noted over the past few years. The proposals of the Ramsey and St. Ives Joint Water Board to take a bulk supply from Cambridge are under consideration by the Council since these might permit a re-arrangement of supplies to the North West part of the district.

Chlorination

All public supplies are now chlorinated with the exception of the Council's works at Harston supplying less than 1,500 population. The Council has agreed to chlorinate this supply and a scheme is in course of preparation.

Willingham Water Company

During the year, negotiations have been in progress for the purchase of the works of this private company and, it is hoped, will be completed shortly. Since the improvements mentioned in the 1952 Report the supply has improved bacteriologically and no trouble was experienced during the year.

Sampling

All public supplies continue to be sampled monthly for bacteriological examination and full chemical and bacteriological reports are made quarterly. In addition, frequent sampling is undertaken at various points throughout the distribution system and, as will be seen from the Table below, considerable coverage is affected. The unsatisfactory samples from the Cottenham supply were traced to the storage tank which, acting as a balancing tank, became stagnant at certain periods of low draw off. After cleaning out and chlorinating no further trouble was experienced. The remaining unsatisfactory samples from the public supplies were mainly due to minor contamination of taps or standpipes and repeat samples proved satisfactory.

In the case of private supplies yielding unsatisfactory results, connection to the mains was required where possible or steps were taken to improve the supply or seek an alternative source.

PIPED WATER SUPPLIES AT 31.3.54

PARISH	Estimated Population 1951 (Planning)	Statutory Authority	No. of Dwellings (Rate Books) 31.3.54	No. of Dwellings taking Supply (Rated)	% of Dwellings at 31.3.54
Barton	520	C.R.D.C.	194	126	64.9
Bourn	790	C.R.D.C.	316	287	90.5
Boxworth	180	C.R.D.C.	70	63	90.0
Caldecote	390	C.R.D.C.	136	125	91.9
Caxton	340	C.R.D.C.	113	106	93.8
Childerley	20	C.R.D.C.	7	6	85.7
Comberton	620	C.R.D.C.	194	151	77.8
Conington	130	C.R.D.C.	41	39	95.1
Coton	500	C.W.W.	172	155	90.1
Cottenham	2,650	C.R.D.C.	884	842	95.2
Croxton	190	C.R.D.C.	65	57	87.7
Dry Drayton	370	C.R.D.C.	127	103	81.1
Elsworth	500	C.R.D.C.	157	144	91.7
Eltisley	290	C.R.D.C.	97	95	98.0
Fen Ditton	620	C.W.W.	196	134	68.3
Fen Drayton	440	C.R.D.C.	143	74	51.7
Fulbourn	2,420	C.W.W.	469	391	83.3
Girton	2,350	C.W.W.	687	651	94.7
Grantchester	510	C.W.W.	165	156	94.5
Graveley	170	C.R.D.C.	67	57	85.0
Hardwick	440	C.R.D.C.	157	117	74.5
Harlton	240	C.R.D.C.	82	62	75.6
Harston	910	C.R.D.C.	362	340	94.0
Haslingfield	890	C.R.D.C.	215	162	75.3
Hauxton	370	C.R.D.C.	126	110	87.3
Histon	2,600	C.W.W.	855	1,194	92.4
Horningsea	310	C.R.D.C.	107	77	72.0
Impington	1,330	C.W.W.	436	(with Histon)	92.4
Knapwell	110	C.R.D.C.	37	33	89.2
Landbeach	610	C.R.D.C.	212	164	77.3
Lolworth	90	C.R.D.C.	41	28	68.3
Longstanton	670	C.R.D.C.	192	166	86.4
Madingley	190	C.W.W.	69	61	88.4
Milton	750	C.W.W.	250	188	75.2
Newton	280	C.R.D.C.	90	67	74.4
Oakington	540	C.R.D.C.	179	169	94.4
Over	910	C.R.D.C.	334	294	88.0
Papworth Everard	1,310	C.R.D.C.	262	260	99.2
Papworth St. Agnes	80	C.R.D.C.	29	26	89.6
Rampton	220	C.R.D.C.	86	81	94.2
Great Shelford	2,380	C.W.W.	784	752	95.9
Little Shelford	620	C.W.W.	196	159	81.1
Stapleford	830	C.W.W.	286	244	85.3
Stow-cum-Quy	470	C.R.D.C.	160	137	85.6
Swavesey	890	C.R.D.C.	310	290	93.5
Teversham	510	C.W.W.	155	110	70.9
Toft	220	C.R.D.C.	83	69	83.1
Waterbeach	1,710	C.R.D.C.	522	406	77.7
Westwick	40	C.R.D.C.	14	14	100.0
Great Wilbraham	410	C.W.W.	145	114	78.6
Little Wilbraham	310	C.R.D.C.	101	82	81.2
Willingham	1,790	W.W.W.	632	590	93.3
Totals	37,030*		11,809	10,328	87.4%

C.R.D.C. Chesterton Rural District Council.

C.W.W. Cambridge University and Town Waterworks Company.

W.W.W. Willingham Water Company

* 1951 Census population 38,646.

WATER SAMPLING YEAR ENDING 31.12.53

Parish	Public Supplies		Private Supplies	
	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Barton	3	—	—	—
Bourn	8	—	—	1
Boxworth	3	—	—	—
Caldecote	5	—	—	3
Caxton	6	—	—	—
Childerley	2	—	—	—
Comberton	3	—	—	1
Conington	3	—	—	—
Coton	3	—	—	—
Cottenham	31	7	—	—
Croxton	3	—	—	—
Dry Drayton	3	—	—	—
Elsworth	8	—	—	—
Eltisley	3	—	—	—
Fen Ditton	3	—	—	1
Fen Drayton	—	—	26	—
Fulbourn	4	—	—	—
Girton	6	—	3	1
Grantchester	3	1	—	—
Graveley	16	—	—	—
Hardwick	4	—	—	—
Harlton	4	—	—	—
Harston	19	—	—	—
Haslingfield	7	—	—	—
Hauxton	1	—	—	—
Histon	3	—	—	—
Horningsea	3	—	1	1
Impington	4	—	—	—
Knapwell	3	—	—	—
Landbeach	2	—	—	—
Lolworth	3	—	1	1
Madingley	2	—	—	—
Milton	—	—	—	1
Newton	10	2	—	—
Oakington	3	—	—	—
Over	29	—	—	—
Papworth Everard	3	—	—	—
Papworth St. Agnes	3	—	—	—
Great Shelford	5	—	8	5
Little Shelford	4	—	—	1
Stapleford	3	—	—	—
Stow-cum-Quy	6	2	—	—
Swavesey	27	—	—	—
Teversham	4	—	—	—
Toft	12	—	—	—
Waterbeach	2	—	2	1
Westwick	1	—	—	—
Great Wilbraham	3	—	—	—
Little Wilbraham	9	—	—	—
Willingham	46	3	—	1
Totals	341	15	41	18

SUMMARY OF WORK CARRIED OUT BY THE DEPARTMENT

Total number of visits made re water supplies	..	..	..	..	..	..	644
Total samples taken	..	..	..	..	..	..	415
Samples reported fit							
(a) Public supplies	..	..	..	..	..	..	341
(b) Private wells, etc.	..	..	..	..	..	..	41
Samples reported unfit							
(a) Public supplies	..	..	..	..	..	..	15
(b) Private wells, etc.	..	..	..	..	..	..	18
Water supplies to houses improved as a result of action by the department (excluding mains extensions)	..	..	..	..	..	..	25
Statutory Notices served	..	..	..	..	..	..	4

PUBLIC CLEANSING

The department continues to be responsible for public cleansing. During the year it was found possible to increase the frequency of collections from monthly to fortnightly in the parish of Cottenham (884 houses), and the schedules now provide a weekly service for the 3,732 houses in the 8 semi-urban parishes (32%), a fortnightly collection from 2,154 houses in 6 parishes (18%) and a monthly collection from the remaining 5,923 houses in 38 parishes (50%), as follows:—

Weekly	Houses	Fortnightly	Houses
Girton	687	Cottenham	884
Harston	362	Fen Ditton	196
Hauxton	126	Landbeach	212
Histon	855	Milton	250
Impington	436	Newton	90
Great Shelford	784	Waterbeach	522
Little Shelford	196		
Stapleford	286		
8 parishes	3,732 (32%)	6 parishes	2,154 (18%)

Monthly	Houses	Monthly	Houses	Monthly	Houses
Barton	194	Fen Drayton	143	Over	334
Bourn	316	Fulbourn	469	Papworth Everard	262
Boxworth	70	Grantchester	165	Papworth St. Agnes	29
Caldecote	136	Graveley	67	Rampton	86
Caxton	113	Hardwick	157	Stow-cum-Quy	160
Childerley	7	Harlton	82	Swavesey	310
Comberton	194	Haslingfield	215	Teversham	155
Conington	41	Horningsea	107	Toft	83
Coton	172	Knapwell	37	Westwick	14
Croxton	65	Lolworth	41	Great Wilbraham	145
Dry Drayton	127	Longstanton	192	Little Wilbraham	101
Elsworth	157	Madingley	69	Willingham	632
Eltisley	97	Oakington	179		
38 parishes 5,923 houses (50%)					

The nature and size of the area to be served renders the task of refuse collection difficult and costly. It is satisfactory to note that all 52 parishes are served by a collection not less frequently than once a month. The more heavily populated parishes adjoining Cambridge (representing approximately 50% of the total houses in the district) have a weekly or fortnightly schedule. The current rate equivalent for refuse collection is 14½d. In order to keep the cost within reasonable limits it has been necessary to adhere to a curbside collection facilitated by the co-operation of the public.

The present fleet comprises two Karrier Bantams (7 cu. yd.) vehicles, one 12 cu. yd. Karrier CK 3 side loading vehicle, one 12/15 cu. yd. Karrier CK 3 moving floor vehicle, plus one new Shelvoke and Drewry 16/18 cu. yd. fore and aft tipping vehicle with diesel engine (delivered September, 1953). One Karrier Bantam has been scrapped. It is hoped to acquire a further S. & D. vehicle in 1954 and eliminate the 2 remaining Karrier Bantams which are 8/9 years old.

As will be seen from the summary the vehicles have collected 5,423 tons of refuse and have travelled over 45,400 miles in the process. The Council continues to operate one contract for the collection of refuse from one permanent R.A.F. Station.

The year has been very difficult from a labour point of view due to high sickness rate amongst the older members of the staff and the problem of recruiting suitable men at the present National Joint Council rate.

Fortunately in June, 1953, the department was able to transfer completely to the New Depot at Oakington where up to date facilities have been provided both for the staff and the vehicles. Previous difficulties with regard to adequate vehicle maintenance and repair should now resolve themselves.

Stocks of B.S.S. dustbins continue to be held for resale to the public at cost price.

Disposal

The five refuse tips at Cottenham, Hauxton, Landbeach, Fulbourn and Fen Drayton remain in use and disposal is by controlled tipping. During the year a Fordson Major tractor with Muledozer blade attachment was acquired and has proved extremely valuable in levelling and covering the refuse. The anticipated life of the existing tips is not great and there are few, if any, alternative sites available in the area. The siting and use of tips on a County basis might be an advantage.

In spite of the fact that no permanent labour is employed on the tips they are in reasonably good condition and under the constant supervision of the Council's Pests Officer. The only real problems associated with disposal are firstly to secure the exclusive use of the site and secondly to acquire sufficient covering material which is almost non-existent locally. The actual cost of disposal is negligible involving mostly a nominal amount for rentals, and the use of the tractor. It has not been necessary to hire bulldozers during the year under review. No serious tip fires occurred.

Night Soil Collection

The department is responsible for the collection of night soil as follows:—

Weekly	No. of Houses
Waterbeach (direct labour)	350
Grantchester (private contract)	50
2 parishes	400 houses

In addition to the above, a scheme is in operation, in conjunction with a private firm of contractors, whereby a night soil collection service is available throughout the area at a nominal charge of 1/- per clearance. This is used to a considerable extent by the public.

Cesspool Emptying

The casual clearance of cesspools is undertaken by the department at a nominal charge. Two Karrier Yorkshire 700 gallon vehicles are employed for this purpose, and also carry out the desludging of small sewage disposal plants owned by the Council, and the cleansing of village drains and catch-pits. Both vehicles are adapted for the collection of night soil and are fully employed. By reason of the fact that the service is partly rate aided it remains the cheapest available although similar work is undertaken by at least one private firm.

Disposal of cesspool contents is mainly effected at the larger sewage disposal works operated by the Council together with the seasonal use of suitable agricultural land. Transport costs are high due to the long haulage involved. The use of the public sewers for this purpose is permitted on a limited basis where there is no risk of blockage.

Collection of Salvage

Since the collapse of the market in February 1953, it has been impossible to secure a guaranteed minimum price for waste paper which would enable the Council to collect it without any part of the cost falling on the ratepayers. An upward trend in prices offered has been noted and may lead to a resumption of separate collections. A minimum of at least £6 10s. 0d. per ton for mixed waste would be necessary.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC CLEANSING WORK CARRIED OUT DURING THE YEAR ENDING 31st MARCH, 1954

House Refuse

Total mileage travelled (6 vehicles)	.. .. .	45,440 miles
Cost of vehicles per mile	.. .. .	12.3 pence
Estimated refuse removed and disposed of	.. .. .	5,424 tons
Estimated cost per ton (collection and disposal)	.. .. .	£1 12 9
Estimated cost per ton (after deduction of income, etc.)	.. .. .	£1 10 2½
Estimated number of clearances	.. .. .	317,422 clearances
Average cost per clearance	.. .. .	6 pence
Estimated average mileage per ton	.. .. .	8.4 miles
Estimated mileage per gallon (6 vehicles)	.. .. .	9.2 m.p.g.
Estimated annual cost per 1,000 dwellings (gross)	.. .. .	£752 18 10
Estimated annual cost per 1,000 dwellings (net)	.. .. .	£693 19 4
Estimated annual cost per 1,000 population (gross)	.. .. .	£224 18 7
Estimated annual cost per 1,000 population (net)	.. .. .	£207 6 3

A number of factors have influenced the year's working—notably the acquisition of the new diesel engined Shelvoke and Drewry vehicle in September 1953, and the scrapping of one Karrier Bantam in December. The full effect of this replacement will not be apparent until later. The department moved into the new Depot at Oakington in June which must eventually prove beneficial, although not fully reflected in the figures for this year.

The operation of the vehicles showed little variation on last year's figures—and the cost of fuel remained fairly constant. In fact, the actual cost per mile shows a decrease from 14.9 pence to 12.3 pence (average for all vehicles). Loan charges on the new vehicle accounted for a £300 increase however.

Loss of income due to the termination of one R.A.F. Contract and the cessation of salvage collection has to some extent been offset by other income and the total figure is only £100 less than 1953. The most significant increase in cost is that for wages and insurances (from £4,167 in 1953 to £5,061). To some extent this is due to wage awards during the year and to additional labour employed owing to the high sickness rate.

The net cost per ton for collection and disposal shows an increase from £1 6s. 11d. to £1 10s. 2½d. due almost entirely to the higher labour costs.

If the present wage rates could be improved, together with the possible admission of the staff to a superannuation scheme a higher standard of fitness, etc., might be secured on entry to the service.

Cesspool Emptying

Actual mileage travelled (2 vehicles)	.. .. .	21,381 miles
Estimated cost per mile	.. .. .	1/2½d
Number of clearances made	.. .. .	1,110 clearances
Estimated cost per clearance	.. .. .	£2 17 4½
Estimated number of loads disposed of	.. .. .	1,648 loads
Estimated cost per load (collection and disposal)	.. .. .	£1 18 7¾

The cost of the service shows very little variation from last year and the total income has increased slightly. Consequently the net cost to the rates is £906 5s. 5d. as against £1,027 5s. 1d. for 1953, and costs generally show a slight decrease.

The cost per mile has dropped from 1/6 in 1953 to 1/2½ this year and the cost per clearance from £2 19s. 1½d. to £2 17s. 4½d. The actual cost per load for collection and disposal is £1 18s. 7¾d. as against £1 19s. 3½d. in 1953.

The Council's charges remain at £1 15s. 0d. minimum charge (1 load) or £2 10s. 0d. for 2 loads and the service continues to be subsidised by the general rate to the extent of 1½d.

The amount of work required directly by the Council is increasing rapidly and reducing the availability of the service for private properties. Consideration may have to be given to either purchasing a further vehicle or curtailing private work.

Night Soil Collection

Total number of bucket clearances	..	..	..	..	..	17,732 clearances
Estimated cost per bucket clearance	..	..	..	..	..	3.2 pence
Contract price per bucket clearance	..	..	..	..	..	9d.—1/-

After twelve months operation of this scheme by direct labour the cost may be considered satisfactory. The cost per clearance (3.2 pence) compares favourably with charges made by private contractors in the area (9d.—1/-).

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS

There are no public or privately owned baths or pools in the area although much bathing occurs in the River Cam below Cambridge. The responsibility for the prevention of pollution now devolves upon the new River Board and no action has been necessary by the department during the year.

SHOPS ACTS

The following summary shows the action taken by the department during the year (excluding routine visits to food shops reported elsewhere):—

Total number of shops (all categories) on Register	..	..	..	..	..	308
Inspections made	..	..	..	..	..	154
Improvements secured:—						
Structural repairs or improvements	..	..	..	..	..	7
New or improved sanitary accommodation	..	..	..	..	..	3
New or improved drainage	..	..	..	..	..	2
New or improved washing facilities	..	..	..	..	..	5

The work of the department is limited to action under Section 38 of the new Shops Act, 1950, dealing with ventilation and temperature in shops and the provision of sanitary conveniences for the employees, and since the majority of the shop premises in the area are small family concerns little difficulty is experienced. Few shops employ large staffs.

VERMINOUS PERSONS AND PREMISES

Very little action has been necessary during the year. The following is a summary:—

Visits and enquiries re verminous premises or persons	..	..	..	..	19
Premises treated for:—					
Bugs	..	..	..	..	1
Fleas	..	..	..	..	8
Cockroaches, beetles, etc.	..	..	..	..	2
Flies	..	..	..	..	1

Facilities are available at the County Hospital for the disinfection of bedding and articles not capable of treatment on the spot. The availability of effective fumigants of the D.D.T. or B.H.C. type to the general public has no doubt served to reduce the demands on the department. The employment of a full time Pests Officer within the department enables a comprehensive service to be offered where required.

DRAINAGE AND CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

A brief summary of the work of the department is as follows:—

Visits in connection with drainage (inspections and testing, etc.)	..	..	..	1,349
House drains, new or repaired	..	..	..	144
Closet accommodation, new or repaired	..	..	..	86

All new drainage, drainage alterations or repairs to existing properties are carried out under the supervision of the department, which account for a high proportion of the Inspectors' time as revealed in the large number of visits made. This work is increasing as the new sewers come into operation. It is a source of satisfaction that the advice of the department is almost invariably sought by local builders and others before any work is commenced. The district is a difficult one from a drainage point of view owing to the heavy clay subsoil and high subsoil water level over much of the area. The provision of piped water supplies throughout the whole district brings disposal problems in its train.

Public sewers are now available in parts of Girton, Histon, Impington and Great Shelford, although the completion of the remainder of these works has been delayed much longer than was anticipated. Ministerial approval is still awaited in respect of Contract 5 comprising the remainder of Great Shelford, Little Shelford, and Stapleford.

During the year the sewerage of Milton parish was completed and the sewers are in use. Schemes have been put in hand for extensions in Girton and Histon to cater for recent development.

The scheme for the sewerage of Fulbourn village (now split into 3 contracts) has received approval and work on Contracts 1 and 2 is in hand at the time of writing.

Other schemes for sewerage Cottenham and Waterbeach are still awaiting approval of the Ministry.

The number of properties connected to the new sewers up to the 31st December, 1953, was as follows:—

Parish	Council Houses	Private Houses
Girton	—	190
Histon	—	—
Impington	—	15
Great Shelford	31	152
Milton	28	29
Totals	59	386

Good progress has been made with the installation of sewage disposal facilities on the Council's housing sites. Of the 10 sites (481 existing or proposed houses) mentioned in the 1952 Report, work has been completed on all but 2 sites (Little Wilbraham and Comberton). The contract has been let for Little Wilbraham but it has been necessary to prepare a fresh scheme for Comberton owing to a change in layout.

Contracts have also been let for the installation of a sewage disposal plant at Eltisley (17 houses) and the connection of 18 houses at The Broadway, Bourn, into an existing works. Plans are in hand for a sewer extension to provide for 34 Council houses at St. Andrews Way, Impington, and for the sewerage of part of the new Teversham site.

The progress made in this direction is a source of satisfaction, but disposal of sewage still remains a serious problem on some of the older sites. The connection of existing Council houses to the new public sewers at Coton, Great Shelford, and Milton has not been carried out as speedily as one could wish. If this work could be facilitated it would, no doubt, encourage other property owners to do likewise.

Naturally the work of the department is closely allied to that of the Engineer's department in this field and will increase still more as the major portions of the new schemes are completed in Girton and Histon.

RODENT DESTRUCTION

The department is responsible for the operation of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, and a full time Pests Officer and one operator are employed. A free service is given to all residential properties and other premises are treated on a recovery basis. The scheme has been fully appreciated and used by the public and now forms an established service. At the same time the destruction of wasps, hornets, bats, moles, etc., is also undertaken, for which a nominal charge is made.

During the first 9 months of the year little evidence of rat infestation was revealed, but by the Autumn the service was in very great demand probably due to the mild weather experienced up to December. In the main, destruction of rats is carried out by poisoning with Zinz Phosphide or Warfarin, with the occasional use of A.N.T.U. The availability of Warfarin to the public has enabled householders to treat their own infestations safely and effectively and should, in time, reduce the demands on the service.

As a result of the quieter period during the early part of the year opportunity was taken to carry out extensive surveys in the villages, which accounts for the high total of inspections noted in the following summary. Good liaison exists with the officers of the Agricultural Executive Committee who still maintain a service for agricultural properties.

The Council has been obliged to increase their charges for recoverable costs from 6/- per hour to 7/- and there has been a corresponding increase in contract prices. However, the cost of the service, after deduction of Ministry grants and recoverable expenditure is still less than the product of a 1d. rate.

The following table shows briefly a summary of the work carried out for the 15 months ending 31st March, 1954:—

	Type of Property				Total
	Local Authority	Dwellings	Agricultural	Business & Industrial Premises etc.	
Approximate total number of properties in area	20	11,809	1,000	500	13,329
Properties inspected as a result of notification of infestation	—	82	—	—	82
Properties inspected without notification of infestation	20	10,828	96	575	11,519
Number of properties found to be infested with rats					
<i>Major</i>	—	11	8	9	28
<i>Minor</i>	11	1,607	18	29	1,665
Number of properties found to be infested with mice	—	—	—	—	—
Number of infested properties treated by the Council	11	1,618	26	38	1,693
Number of notices served under Section 4 (treatment)	—	—	—	2	2
Number of 'block control' schemes carried out	—	6	—	—	6

It is interesting to note that the following results were achieved during the period:—

Number of rats recovered	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4,935
Total estimated killed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	19,740
Number of wasps nests removed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10
Number of premises treated for:—									
Beetles	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	25
Bees	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Mosquitos	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Ants	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Moles	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Rabbits	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Bats	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Other Vermin	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3

The regular surveillance and treatment of the Council's five refuse tips has done much to eliminate any reservoirs of infestation and with the continued co-operation of the public the presence of these pests need not be tolerated.

FACTORIES

A summary of work carried out under the Factories Act is appended below:—

Number of factories with mechanical power	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	114
Number of factories without mechanical power	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11
Inspections recorded	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	227
Notifications of outworkers received	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9
Infected premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Notices served	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7

As a result of action taken during the year the following improvements have been recorded:—

Mains water laid on	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Structural improvements, etc.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
Cleansing and/or redecoration	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
New, improved or additional sanitary accommodation	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
New or improved drainage, connection to sewers, etc.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3

Very few outworkers are now employed in the area and the use of satellite premises for light assembly work has almost ceased. Most premises are small with very few employees and no serious problems arose during the year.

The department is not responsible for the administration of Section 34-37 of the Factories Act, 1937 (means of escape in case of fire).

Schools

The work of the department with regard to schools has been confined to school milk sampling and the inspection of school canteens and kitchens (reported elsewhere). The responsibility for the structural condition of school premises and the amenities provided rests with the County Council and within the permitted financial programme steady progress is being made, though much still remains to be done in modernizing many of the village schools.

Total inspections and visits recorded	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	162
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Improvements noted:—

Sanitary accommodation converted to W.C.'s	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Mains water laid on	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Structural repairs	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Decorations	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1

Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951

Only one factory in the area is engaged in the manufacture of new upholstered furniture using the specified materials and this has been duly registered. Although there are other premises in the area used for the repair and re-upholstering of furniture, these are exempt from the provisions of the Act.

Pet Animals Act, 1951

Premises registered 1.1.53	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
New licences issued	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Total on register	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Inspections made	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7

One licence is in respect of premises where animals and birds are kept prior to sale elsewhere. Visits are usually made in conjunction with an Inspector of the R.S.P.C.A. with whom close liaison is maintained. The other licence is for the sale of goldfish only. There are no markets in the area.

INSPECTION OF FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES

Milk Supply

The work of the department has been directed towards the systematic sampling of milk supplies as delivered to the consumer and the sampling of school milk supplies on behalf of the County Medical Officer. The supervision of milk production on the farm is no longer the responsibility of the local authority but rests with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries *via* the local Agricultural Committee. Although, perhaps not providing such regular and systematic inspections of the dairy farms, the work of the Committee, aided by the stronger measures available to them, has effected considerable improvement in the general standard of cleanliness of the supplies. In this, the Committee is aided by the Milk Marketing Board and the work of their Joint Quality Control Committee. The rejection of unsatisfactory milk still remains the greatest incentive to the production of milk of good keeping quality.

The following figures (supplied by courtesy of the Cambridgeshire Agricultural Committee) indicate the position in the area at 31st December, 1953:—

Number of wholesale producers in the area	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	137
Number of producer retailers	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	53
Number of retail purveyors	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	23

Included in the above figures are 70 producers of Tuberculin Tested milk (44%) and 16 Accredited producers (10%). Of the 157 registered producers in the area 55% now produce designated milk and approximately 73 herds (46%) are attested.

The following is a summary of the year's work in connection with the distribution of milk under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949:—

Number of distributors with registered premises in the area	..	..	..	..	..	20
Number of distributors with premises outside	..	..	..	..	..	3
Visits paid to retail dairies	..	..	..	..	..	52
Licences issued to retail Pasteurised milk	..	..	..	..	..	19
Licences issued to retail Tuberculin Tested milk	..	..	..	..	..	17
Licences issued to retail Sterilised milk	..	..	..	..	..	2
Dairies improved—reconstructed	..	..	..	..	..	1
New bottling plant, etc.	..	..	..	..	..	1

There are only 20 small retail dairies in the area and the Regulations are complied with. The sale of loose milk has disappeared and the retailers concerned either bottle their own milk or purchase bottled milk for resale from the larger firms outside the district. The amount of raw milk sold is extremely small and bottled Pasteurised milk is almost universally available together with the other designated milks.

Milk Sampling

Regular and systematic sampling of milk as delivered to the consumer and schools is carried out by the department. Where appropriate, the samples are examined bacteriologically and subjected to the prescribed tests if designated. Samples of raw milk are submitted for biological examination for evidence of tuberculosis or *Brucella abortus*. In this connection the department collaborates fully with the Public Health Laboratory Service and the Animal Health Division of the Ministry of Agriculture.

Of the 34 samples of retailers' supplies submitted, only 6 failed bacteriologically and all failures were from ungraded sources. All samples of Tuberculin Tested and Accredited milk passed the prescribed tests. Of the 46 samples submitted for biological examination 39 were found to be free of infection and 7 revealed evidence of *Brucella abortus*. Two of these were from Tuberculin Tested herds and 5 from ungraded sources. It is satisfactory to note that for the second year in succession no samples were found to be infected with tuberculosis. Where *Brucella abortus* is revealed, it has been the practice of the department to follow up the infected sample with group or even quarter samples from the cows in the herd in an endeavour to trace the infected animals. In some cases this has proved possible and in others little success has been achieved owing to the fact that the organisms are only secreted intermittently. In all cases revealed, however, prompt measures were taken to secure the heat treatment of the supply unless the early identification and removal of the infected cows could be achieved. In one case a diversion order was made under Article 20 of the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, involving the heat treatment of 1,408 gallons of milk over a period of approximately 2½ months.

It is satisfactory to note that, with the sampling routine adopted, it is possible to ensure complete coverage of all supplies retailed in the area including the biological examination of all raw milk supplies.

128 samples of school milks were taken, of which 107 were satisfactory bacteriologically. 5 samples of Tuberculin Tested milk failed the prescribed tests and 7 samples of Pasteurised milk. In all these cases prompt action was taken either with the Agricultural Committee in the case of Tuberculin Tested milk, or the supplier in the case of Pasteurised milk. All samples submitted for biological examination were found to be free from infection with tuberculosis or *Brucella abortus*.

The following is a summary of the milk sampling carried out during the year:—

Category	Bacteriological Examination			Biological Examination			
	Samples Taken	No. Passing Test	No. Failing	No. of Samples Submitted	Free from Infection	Positive T.B.	Brucella Abortus
ROUTINE SAMPLING	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Tuberculin Tested	13	13	—	23	21	—	2
Accredited	1	1	—	1	1	—	—
Ungraded	20	14	6	22	17	—	5
Totals	34	28	6	46	39	—	7
ADDITIONAL SAMPLING AFTER UNSATISFACTORY SAMPLES AT FARMS	—	—	—	94	74	—	20
SCHOOL MILKS							
Tuberculin Tested	22	17	5	20	20	—	—
Pasteurised	103*	87	7	—	—	—	—
Sterilised	3	3	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	128	107	12	20	20	—	—
TOTAL OF ALL SAMPLES	162	135	18	160	133	—	27

* 9 samples were not tested owing to atmospheric shade temperature exceeding 65°

Bakehouses

Number of bakehouses on register	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	19
Inspections recorded	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	56
Premises improved, extended, etc.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Premises redecorated	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
New or improved sanitary accommodation	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
New drainage	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Equipment improved or replaced	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3

The bakery trade still remains a difficult one facing strong competition from the cut and wrapped bread manufactured by large concerns outside the area and widely distributed *via* the local grocery stores. There has been some improvement in the general maintenance of the premises in the area the majority of which are in good structural condition. The preservation of the premises in good hygienic condition is rendered difficult at times due to the shortage of skilled labour available.

PRESERVED FOOD PREMISES (Section 14 of Food and Drugs Act, 1938)

Total number on Register 31.12.53	..	..	..	131	Visits paid	..	258
Manufacture of sausages	..	..	..	24			76
Fish fryers	..	..	..	8			28
Sale only of ice cream	..	..	..	99			154

The old premises have been brought up to the required standard as a result of action by the department since the war, and all have adequate washing facilities including a constant hot water supply. No new registrations are effected unless the requirements of the Act are met. Nevertheless, improvements continue to be effected and the following have been secured during the year:—

Sausage Making Premises

Structural improvements, resurfacing of walls and floors, etc.	..	..	..	4
Redecoration	..	..	..	3

Fish Frying Premises

New ranges and fittings	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Redecoration	..	..	..	..	..	..	1

Ice Cream Premises (Sale only)

Washing facilities, new or improved	..	..	..	..	..	..	9
New drainage	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Structural improvements, extension, etc.	..	..	..	..	..	..	9
Redecoration	..	..	..	..	..	..	9
New fittings—refrigerators, etc.	..	..	..	..	..	..	2

There are no premises in the area registered for the manufacture of ice cream and registrations are confined to sales only. No loose ice cream is now retailed from registered premises and only prepacked ice cream from reputable manufacturers outside the area is sold. The provisions of the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1947, have been well met during the year and no necessity for action by the department has arisen. The following table summarises the results of sampling during the year:—

Ice Cream Samples from Retailers, 1953

Total of samples taken	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	38
Samples in Category 1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	24
“ “ “ 2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
“ “ “ 3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
“ “ “ 4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Iced Lollies—satisfactory	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2

The samples are subjected to the prescribed methylene blue test for bacteriological cleanliness and it will be seen that 31 (82%) fell within Categories 1 and 2, and 5 (13%) in Category 3. None were in Category 4. These results show very little variation on last year and may be considered satisfactory.

FOOD SHOPS, CAFES AND OTHER FOOD PREMISES

Recorded visits during 1953 were as follows:—

Butchers Shops	100
Cafes and Restaurants	129
Retail Dairies	52
Miscellaneous visits to food shops, etc.	216

In a rural district of this kind there are few premises catering for large numbers apart from factory canteens and the school meals service. The general standard of catering premises is good and there is a much better appreciation of the hygienic requirements both by the managements and staffs, who are quite co-operative. The work of the department has been directed towards securing adequate sanitary accommodation and washing facilities together with proper facilities for the storage of perishable goods. The fact that a mains supply is available throughout the district is of material assistance. It is interesting to note that according to the latest Food Office figures the following catering licences are in force:—

Cafes and Restaurants	17
Public Houses (Catering licences)	66
Clubs, etc.	17
Residential Establishments	8
Factory Canteens	8
School Canteens	14
Total catering premises	130

The majority of these premises, although subject to the requirements of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, and the Clean Food Byelaws, etc., are not required to be registered, although this may be remedied when the new Clean Food Bill becomes law. A much closer liaison with the School Meals Service has been established and premises used for the preparation of school meals are now subject to regular inspection by the department. One is pleased to note that this work is being concentrated in the more modern and better equipped kitchens and the less satisfactory premises are being eliminated:—

As a result of informal action during the year the following improvements have been recorded:—

Cafes and Restaurants

New premises or premises reconstructed, etc.	4
Preparation rooms new or improved	3
Redecoration	17
New fittings or equipment	2
New or improved sanitary accommodation	5
Mains water laid on	2
New or improved drainage	3

Other Food Premises

Mains water laid on	3
Structural improvements	11
Redecoration	14
New fittings (refrigerators, etc.)	5
New or improved drainage	4
Improved washing facilities	7
New or improved sanitary accommodation	2

LICENSED PREMISES

The efforts of the department together with the keen interest shown by the Licensing Justices has resulted in a very marked improvement in these premises and many now reach a high standard. As previously reported 66 houses have full catering licences also. Attention has been directed towards adequate glass washing facilities, sanitary accommodation for the public and proper drainage. In recent years the ownership of the houses has been concentrated considerably and the small breweries have given place to the larger concerns. This has facilitated the work of improvement and, within the limits imposed by financial restrictions, the Brewers have made every effort to co-operate with the department. Often the amount of trade carried on hardly warrants the very substantial expenditure involved in reconstructing the property and may eventually result in the surrender of some licences.

The following is a summary of the work carried out during the year and the improvements recorded:—

Total number of licensed premises in the area	154
Number of visits recorded	171
Premises reconstructed or substantially improved	12
New or improved sanitary accommodation	16
New or improved drainage	15
Improved glass washing facilities	7
Constant hot water supply provided	4
Redecoration	21

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

The three Government slaughterhouses in Cambridge continue to supply all home killed meat for the area. During the year it was necessary to protest once again regarding the bad condition of the meat on arrival at the butchers' premises due mainly to poor dressing and bad transport arrangements. Some improvement was effected but having regard to the termination of the present system on 30th June, 1954, and the difficulties facing the various contractors the matter could not be pursued too strongly. The return to private trading should bring an end to much of this trouble.

Slaughtering in the area has been confined to a few casualty animals and self supplier pigs killed under licence. These were all inspected where notification was received. Twelve slaughterhouses were licenced for the purpose. No difficulty was experienced in securing and disposing of any meat condemned as unfit for consumption.

The slaughterhouse licensed for the slaughter of horses for human consumption was not used during the year.

Visits paid to slaughterhouses	36
Visits paid to butchers premises	100
Butchers shops improved and/or redecorated	7

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933

Licences to slaughter renewed	Nil
New licences issued	Nil
Total on Register 31.12.53	28

Licences are issued for periods of 2 years and the requirements of the Act regarding humane slaughter were fully observed on all licensed premises during the year. With the return to private slaughtering after 30th June next some difficulty may arise in securing sufficient skilled and experienced slaughtermen after such a long interval.

UN SOUND FOODSTUFFS

The department has a good relationship with food traders in the area who do not hesitate to seek its advice if any doubt arises as to the fitness of foodstuffs. Most goods are examined prior to entry into the district and the amount of unfit food condemned is relatively small. Some tinned goods, if unfit, are automatically returned to the wholesalers and dealt with in bulk.

The following is a summary of the foodstuffs condemned during the year:—

Home Killed Meat

Beef	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	289½ lbs.
Pork	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	51½ lbs.
Mutton	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6½ lbs.
Ox Livers	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10 lbs.
Offals	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	54½ lbs.

Imported Meat

Beef	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	549½ lbs.
Lambs Livers	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	66 lbs.
Ox Livers	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	28 lbs.
Irish Sausages	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	25 lbs.
Sheeps Hearts	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5 lbs.

Tinned Goods

Vegetables	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4 tins
Milk	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	17 tins
Fruit	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	65 tins
Fish	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2 tins
Meat	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	26 tins

Other Foods

Suet	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	24 packets
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The advice of the department was sought concerning a large consignment of cornflour sent into the area for manufacturing purposes. Upon examination it was found to be unfit for the purpose for which it was intended due to damage and contamination by rats or mice. The Ministry of Food arranged for its disposal for other purposes.

It was also necessary to condemn some 6 cwts. of edible gelatine rendered unfit for consumption due to contamination during transit (conveyed in a fish van by British Railways). Suitable action was taken to prevent similar trouble in future.

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